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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY °

POISONED BAITS FOR ORCHARD MICE (FIELD MICE)

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DRY GRAIN FORMULA.

Mix thoroughly one ounce powdered strychnine alkaloid, one ounce of baking soda, and about one-eighth ounce of saccharine. Gradually sift this mixture (from a tin pepper-box, or similar container) over 20 quarts of steam-crushed whole oats or of ordinary rolled oats. Stir the grain constantly in the process so that the poison will be evenly distributed.

WET GRAIN FORMULA.

Beat the strychnine-soda-saccharine mixture, indicated under the dry grain formula, into one pint of thin laundry starch (prepared as for household use) until it is a creamy mass free from lumps and flecks. Pour the poisoned starch over 20 quarts of steam-crushed whole oats, not ground oats. Mix thoroughly in a tub or tight box until the whole mass is uniformly dampened. This bait will dry quickly and keep well.

DISTRIBUTION.

Distribute the baits over the infested area, about a teaspoonful at a place when put in mouse runs and at the entrances of burrows. The plan of putting a poisoned-bait cache at the base of each fruit tree is strongly recommended. Old tin cans, partly closed at the opened end and secured so that they will not roll or blow about, make very satisfactory containers for the cache; small drain tiles or inverted V-shaped troughs, made from short pieces of fencing boards, will serve the same purpose. In such shelters the bait is protected from the weather and is not accessible to birds.

CAUTION

All utensils used in the preparation of poisons and all poison containers should be kept PLAINLY LABELED and OUT OF REACH of children, irresponsible persons, and live stock.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and development. It begins with the first settlers who came to the continent in search of a new life. They found a land of vast resources and opportunities, but also one of challenges and hardships. Over time, the settlers grew into a nation, and the United States emerged as a powerful force in the world.

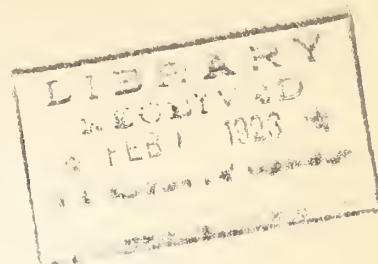
The early years of the United States were marked by a period of exploration and discovery. The first settlers, who came from Europe, brought with them the knowledge and skills of their home countries. They used this knowledge to build a new society, one that was based on the principles of liberty and justice for all.

As the United States grew, it faced many challenges. One of the most significant was the issue of slavery. For many years, slavery was a part of the American way of life. However, as the nation grew, more and more people began to see the injustice of slavery. They fought for its abolition, and eventually, it was abolished. This was a great victory for the United States, and it showed that the nation was capable of change.

The United States has come a long way since its founding. It has grown from a small colony to a powerful nation. It has faced many challenges, but it has always emerged stronger. The history of the United States is a story of hope and achievement, and it is a story that continues to inspire us today.

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Jan. '23

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D. C.



DIRECTIONS FOR POISONING FIELD MICE.
(Rolled-oat Formula.)

Preparation:

Mix together, dry, 1/8 ounce of powdered strychnine and 1/8 ounce of baking soda. Sift the strychnine-soda mixture over 1 quart of rolled oats, stirring constantly to insure an even distribution of the poison through the grain. Heat the poisoned rolled oats in an oven until thoroughly warm. Mix 3 parts of melted beef fat with 1 part of melted paraffin, and sprinkle 6 tablespoonfuls of this mixture over the warm poisoned rolled oats, mixing until the oats are evenly coated. Allow the grain to cool, when it is ready for use. If large quantities of the bait are needed, use 1 ounce of strychnine, 1 ounce of soda, 8 quarts of rolled oats, and 1-1/4 pints of the beef-fat-paraffin mixture.

It is very important that in applying the coating the beef-fat-paraffin mixture be hot and the poisoned rolled oats be thoroughly warm, otherwise it will not be possible to obtain an even coating.

Distribution:

Tablespoonful quantities of the poisoned rolled-oat baits should be placed in small containers or stations to protect them from the weather, and these should be distributed over the infested area. The poisoned baits may also be scattered along runways and into entrances of burrows, a teaspoonful at a place. In orchards where mice are abundant it is advisable to place one poison container under each tree. These should be set close to the base of the tree to escape cultivating machinery and should be lightly covered with vegetation, prunings, or some other material that will afford harborage for the mice. Poison containers should also be placed on high ground to avoid standing water and where a good circulation of air will aid in keeping the baits in good condition for long periods. They should be examined and refilled at least once a year late in fall, and preferably also in spring. With poison stations properly placed, a maximum of protection is furnished at a minimum of labor and expense.

Poison Stations:

Poison stations may consist of any object which will protect the bait from the weather and from birds and larger animals. Wooden boxes, drain tiles of 1-1/2 inch diameter, or larger, or wide mouthed jars or bottles serve the purpose fairly well. A home-made poison station consisting of two squares of lumber held apart by two short strips has proved most attractive to the mice. A convenient size is a 6 inch square for the bottom and an 8 inch square for the top while the two side walls should be 1-1/2 inches high. A depression should be cut in the bottom board or floor to contain the poisoned bait. The whole may be fastened together with four nails.

Caution:

All poisoned baits and poison containers and utensils used in the preparation of poisoned baits should be kept plainly labeled and out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and live stock.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

POISONED BAITS FOR ORCHARD MICE (FIELD MICE)
(Washington District)

DRY-GRAIN FORMULA:

Mix thoroughly one ounce powdered strychnine alkaloid, one ounce of baking soda, and about one-eighth ounce of saccharine. Gradually sift this mixture (from a pepper box or similar container) over 20 quarts of steam-crushed whole oats, or of ordinary rolled oats. Stir the grain constantly in the process, so that the poison will be evenly distributed.

WET-GRAIN FORMULA:

Beat the strychnine-soda-saccharine mixture (indicated under the dry grain formula) into one pint of thin laundry starch, prepared as for household use, until it is a creamy mass free from lumps and flecks. Add 1/4 pint corn sirup and 1 tablespoonful of glycerine. Pour this mixture over 20 quarts of high-grade, steam-rolled whole oats and mix thoroughly until each grain is evenly coated. The bait should be dried before using.

DISTRIBUTION:

Fall poisoning is recommended to prevent winter orchard injury. Distribute the baits over the infested area, including fence rows, ditch banks, and weed-covered waste ground. A teaspoonful placed under cover at intervals in mouse runs, according to infestation, will give protection. Poisoned grain placed around tree trunks from which the litter has been cleaned is not effective, as the animals feed under cover.

In winter, the only efficient method of poisoning is the use of protected caches. Old tin cans, partly closed at the opened end, make satisfactory containers; small drain tiles, or inverted V-shaped troughs made from short pieces of fencing boards, will serve the purpose. At intervals during the winter examine the orchard for mouse activity, as damage is frequently not detected until the snow disappears.

C A U T I O N

All utensils used in the preparation of poisons and all poison containers should be kept PLAINLY LABELED and OUT OF REACH of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock.

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